



# Nevada Well Driller's Annual Newsletter June 2008

State of Nevada, Division  
of Water Resources

Service Since 1903

## Message from Tracy Taylor, P.E., State Engineer

The June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for the water well driller's license renewal date is quickly approaching and our staff is prepared for the anticipated 408 applications that our office will receive. The Division of Water Resources mails out renewal notifications and CEU forms to our water well drillers annually and provides resources for obtaining continuing education credits on our website. It is our hope that by providing these services to our licensed water well drillers it will be a convenient and inexpensive method to renew their licenses and to prevent the added expense of applying for a new one. There have been many changes made to Nevada water law this last 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, including SB-275, which pertains to accessory dwellings. We strongly encourage you to review the full text of the bills at <http://leg.state.nv.us/74th/Reports> and current Nevada water right law at <http://leg.state.nv.us/NRS>. As you read the June 2008 newsletter, you will also find there have been some changes made to the Notice of Intent Cards, Temporary Well Drillers License, surface seals and plugging, domestic wells, dewatering wells, and revocable permits. These changes benefit the water well driller's as well as the general public.

The Division of Water Resources would like to thank Mr. Jim Muth for his dedicated service on the Advisory Board and to the water well drilling industry in Nevada. Jim is retiring after 31 years of service. We would also like to welcome to the Advisory Board, member Mr. Layne Harris of Elko and alternates Daniel Kohlman of Elko, and Andy Andresen of Reno. I would personally like to thank Jim for his many years of continued service.

## Upcoming Well Drillers Exam Dates

There is limited seating at each examination. It is essential that each applicant appear for the scheduled exam date. Notices for the exam are sent out four weeks in advance, and it is up to the individual to schedule vacations, work load or other necessities around the scheduled exam date.

Companies that have employees scheduled for the examination should make the necessary provisions for their employees to take the time to prepare for and pass the examination.

### Las Vegas Well Driller Exam Dates

Thursday	August 14, 2008
Friday	November 14, 2008

### Carson City Well Driller Exam Dates

Friday	August 15, 2008
Thursday	November 13, 2008

The Well Drillers Exam consists of three parts:

- 1.) A written examination to determine the applicant's knowledge of the rules and regulations for drilling wells in the State of Nevada. (70 % score to Pass)
- 2.) Identification of a well location on a topographic map by full legal description. (Pass or Fail)
- 3.) An oral interview by the Statewide Well Driller's Advisory Board regarding the applicant's experience and knowledge of general drilling practices. (Board makes recommendation)

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## Sanitary Surface Seals and Plugging

Remember when using bentonite products for sealing or plugging a well the bentonite cannot be brought to surface. Neat cement, cement grout or concrete grout must be placed from ten (10) feet below ground surface to ground surface for the sanitary seal and from twenty (20) feet below ground surface to ground surface for plugging a well.

## Containment of Drilling Fluids and the Impact on the Environment

When drilling a well of any kind, NAC § 534.330 2 (c), a well driller licensed by the State Engineer, shall ensure that the drilling of the well complies with the requirements of all other federal, state and local agencies which have jurisdiction over the land on which the well is to be drilled and NAC 534.370 (1 a and b) and (2): Construction of a well: Prevention of contamination; securing against unauthorized entry; suspension of drilling are all part of the Regulations for Water Well and Related Drilling in the State of Nevada.

When drilling any type of well, the drilling fluids that are associated with the operation must be contained, if left unattended and not cleaned up it may become an environmental issue resulting in fines or disciplinary actions against the individuals associated with the project as well as demerits towards a well driller's license. To find out more about the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection's regulations you can visit their web site at [ndep.nv.gov](http://ndep.nv.gov) or call them at 775-687-4670.

## Nevada Division of Water Resources Regulation Continuing Education Courses

Nevada Division of Water Resources presented eight separate well driller continuing education workshops on Well Drilling Regulations and GPS, between December 17<sup>th</sup> 2007 and May 20<sup>th</sup> 2008. These workshops were given in Carson City, Elko, Ely, Las Vegas and Winnemucca. The workshops provided three continuing education credits for those in attendance. For the renewal period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, eight (8) hours of approved CEU's will be required. Once the CEU's have been approved, any additional credits that were not used for the renewal period, half of the CEU requirement for the next renewal period can be carried over.

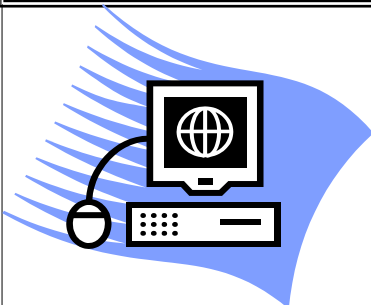
### Well Driller Application & License Renewal Fees

Annual Renewal of a Well Driller's License (June 15) NAC 534.2923	\$50.00
Application for Well Driller's License NAC 534.280	\$100.00

### Riddles

1. Q: What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?
2. Q: What falls but doesn't break, and what breaks but doesn't fall?

Answers on page 6



## What you can find on our Web Site:

Well Log and Water Right databases, Waiver request information, Well Drilling Regulations, Continuing Education and Well Drilling pre-printed forms can be found in the Forms Room at the Division of Water Resources web site at: [water.nv.gov](http://water.nv.gov)



## USEFUL INFORMATION

The State of Nevada, Division of Water Resources has two (2) offices that handle well drilling issues, The Southern Nevada branch office (Las Vegas) and Northern Nevada branch office (Carson City). All drilling practices are the same throughout the state, however, when drilling a well in the Southern region (South Townships) please make sure that you are using the correct NOI cards and mailing them to the right office. Below is some helpful information regarding:

### NOTICE OF INTENT CARDS

When filling out your Notice of Intent Card, please provide the name of the property owner as the client (not the company who is paying you to do the work). Various county assessors' offices can provide the information you need as long as you have a valid assessor's parcel number or current address. Useful websites, email addresses and phone numbers for county assessors' in the southern townships are listed below:

Clark County: Phone: (702) 455-3882 (General Information)

Clark County Assessor OpenWeb Info Mapper: <http://gisgate.co.clark.nv.us/openweb/asp/openweb.asp>

Nye County: <http://asdb.co.nye.nv.us:1401/cgi-bin/asw100>

Lincoln County: (775) 962-5890

Esmeralda County: Phone: 775-485-6380, Fax: 775-485-3450, Email: [assessor3@frontiernet.net](mailto:assessor3@frontiernet.net)

### DEWATERING WELLS

To install dewatering wells within the State of Nevada, a waiver request to install temporary dewatering wells must be submitted and approved by our office prior to work. The Notice of Intent and well logs must include the waiver number.

### LICENSED WELL DRILLERS

When submitting waiver requests, NOI Cards, 24-Hour Notices and well logs, it's the responsibility of the driller to submit the correct information in a timely manner. The office assistants and driller's helper are not responsible for your paperwork.

### REVOCABLE PERMITS

Revocable permits are temporary permits for residential use (two or more homes). According to NRS 534.120(4) – “The State Engineer may revoke a temporary permit ...” which means a well cannot be reconditioned or redrilled if the property line is within 180 feet of an existing water line. The permittee(s) must connect to city water and have the existing well plugged by a licensed well driller. Please note that revocable permits only exist within the Las Vegas Valley (Basin 212).

### DOMESTIC WELLS

According to NRS 534.013, domestic use of a well consists of culinary and household purposes directly related to:

1. A single family dwelling ; and
2. An accessory dwelling unit for a single-family dwelling if provided for in an applicable local ordinance, including, without limitation, the watering of a family garden and lawn and the watering of livestock and any other domestic animals or household pets, if the amount of water does not exceed the maximum amount set forth in NRS 534.180 for exemption from the application of this chapter (two (2) acre feet per year).



## Well Drillers Contacts Database

In order to keep up with the changing technology of today's computers, this office is working on a contacts database. The database will allow us to send correspondence regarding continuing education, licensing and general well drilling and water right issues to our customers via email, it will also maintain an accurate account of all our clients. If you are interested in receiving correspondence to your email account please email Sue Gilbert [sgilbert@water.nv.gov](mailto:sgilbert@water.nv.gov) or call 775-684-2838.

## Examination Results Report July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

### WELL DRILLERS EXAMINATION

Exam Dates and Locations	Notification Letters Sent	Total Exams Given	Canceled exam Timely	Failure to notify of Cancellation (ruling)	Re-scheduled	License Issued	Denied by Ruling	% of Licenses Issued to Total Exams Given	% of Rescheduled Applicants to Notification Letters sent
Las Vegas 8/16/2007	14	8	2	4	5	1	2	13%	36%
Carson City 8/17/2007	14	10	2	2	5	4	2	40%	36%
Carson City 11/1/2007	9	4	3	2	7	0	0	0%	78%
Las Vegas 11/2/2007	12	8	2	2	7	1	0	13%	58%
Carson City 2/7/2008	11	11	0	0	3	7	1	64%	27%
Las Vegas 2/8/2008	14	9	3	2	8	3	1	33%	57%
Carson City 5/1/2008	14	12	2	1	7	5	0	42%	50%
Las Vegas 5/2/2008	12	8	3	2	8	1	0	13%	67%
<b>Year End Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>50%</b>

Note: In May 2008 two (2) applicants did not receive their licenses after passing the exam due to missing references

## Disciplinary Actions 2007-2008

There were two well driller disciplinary hearings held in the past year:

Philip Regeski license # 2333 resulting in the revocation of his license.

Jim Biffle License #772 resulting in 95 demerits against his license.

There are currently six (6) additional drillers that have demerits pending final determination by this office.



## Division of Water Resources

### Contact Directory

#### Carson City Office

Division of Water Resources  
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002

Carson City, NV 89701

#### Southern Nevada Office

Division of Water Resources

400 Shadow Lane

Suite 201

Las Vegas, NV 89106

### Water Well & Drilling

#### Questions

##### Carson City Office

Tim Hunt (775) 684-2800

Ryan Clark

Joseph Di Tucci

##### Southern Nevada Office

Tracy Geter (702) 486-2770

Steven Martinez

#### Drillers License,

#### Exam and Continuing Education

#### Questions

##### Carson City Office

Joseph Di Tucci (775) 684-2800

Sue Gilbert

##### Southern Nevada Office

Tracy Geter (702) 486-2770

### Other Useful Contacts

#### Division of Environmental Protection

##### Carson City Office

Icyl Mulligan (775) 687-4670

## Statewide Well Driller's Advisory Board Members

Driller Name	License Number	Company	Location
Roger Thrall	1132	Aqua Drilling Company	Reno, NV
Fred B. Allen III	1301	Allen Drilling, Inc.	Las Vegas, NV
Layne Harris	1698	Eklund Drilling Co., Inc.	Elko, NV
Daniel Kohlman (alternate)	2193	Boart Longyear Drilling Service	Elko, NV
Andy Andresen (alternate)	1028	Andresen Exploration Drilling	Reno, NV

The Division of Water Resources is pleased to announce that Layne Harris has been selected as the newest Well Driller Advisory Member. Mr. Harris is employed and has drilled wells for Eklund Drilling Company, Inc. in Elko, Nevada for the last eighteen years. Layne's knowledge and experience regarding all well drilling practices and regulations within the mining community have become very beneficial to the State of Nevada, Division of Water Resources, the public and the numerous well driller applicants that he sponsors and educates.

The Division of Water Resources would like to welcome the two newest Advisory Board Alternates; Daniel Kohlman of Elko, Nevada and Andy Andresen of Reno, Nevada. Both are serving a one year term with the Advisory Board.

Also serving a consecutive one year term as a Board Member is Roger Thrall of Reno, Nevada, giving him a total of 18 years as an advisory board member. Fred Allen has accepted a term of two years and his appointment will expire 10/1/2009.

This office would like to thank each and every board member for their participation and professionalism while representing the State of Nevada, Division of Water Resources.

As of April 2008, Victor Cline has renounced his position as an alternate board member as he has moved out of state. We wish him much success in his endeavors. Mr. Cline had been an alternate board member since October 2006, and a Nevada well driller for the past 6 years.

Good Luck Victor.

#### The Retirement of an Advisory Board Member

The Division of Water Resources would like to thank Mr. Jim Muth for his participation with the Well Driller's Advisory Board. Mr. Muth has served as an Advisory Board member for 31 years. During this time he has helped incorporate many of the policies and regulations that this office has established relating to well drilling and he has attended most of the well driller's exams that have been given.

Jim Muth has held a Nevada well driller's license for 37 years. He started drilling wells in Nevada, for his father in 1944 and continues to drill wells and operate his own well drilling company, Muth Drilling, located in Elko County.

During October 2007, a power-point presentation was given by Mr. Robert K. Martinez, P.E., Chief of Engineering and Dam Safety to the Rotary Club of Elko. Mr. Martinez "surprised" Mr. Muth with a speech and a plaque commemorating his continued work with the Division of Water Resources and the Well Drilling program.

**DUE TO THE LIMITED SEATING AT EACH EXAMINATION IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT AND/OR THE APPLICANTS' EMPLOYER TO ALLOW THE APPLICANT SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAMINATION. WHEN AN APPLICANT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR AN EXAM, THE APPLICANT AND/OR THE APPLICANT'S EMPLOYER SHALL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ATTEND THE EXAMS BY SCHEDULING VACATIONS OR OTHER DUTIES AROUND THAT DATE.**

### Well Drillers Licensed in the State of Nevada

The Statewide Well Driller's Advisory Board recommended to the State Engineer that licenses for 24 new well drillers be approved in 2007-2008 (listed below). As of May 2007, there were a total of 414 licensed well drillers in the State of Nevada.

In the previous year, 2006-2007, there were 20 newly licensed well drillers and a total of 471 licensed drillers in the State of Nevada.

All are licensed as water well drillers and some are restricted to certain types of work, e.g., M = monitor wells, ABDS = shallow dewater wells, R&P = plugging and recondition

Driller's Name	License Number
Timothy L. Weakly	M-P-DEW 2343
Robert Ferrin	2344
Craig Bingham	2345
Johnny B. Hatfield	2346
Abraham Schaefer	2347
Michael F. Miller	M-2348
Michael Mottet	2349
Dan Downing	2330
Jeff Hart	2351
Paul Tamoua	2332
Ronald Wilson	2353
Eric Santellan	M-2354

Driller's Name	License Number
Evan Barto	2355
Thomas Keogh	M-236
Neil Wiktor	2357
Tommy R. Williams	2358
Jon Darnell	FP-MW-2359
Ronald Vannucci	2360
Edward Yadon	DEW-2361
Nathan Paine Sr.	2362
Timothy Dawson	M-2363
Roger Johnson	2365
Matthew Fisher	2365
Bobby J. Wallace	2366

### Permit Terms & Waivers: Read 'Em!

In Nevada, unless you're working on a domestic well (see NAC § 534.315), you will most likely be constructing a well that has requirements outlined in a waiver or permit as outlined in the NAC § 534.300. Although much of the language in these documents is "boiler plate" stuff, you should still closely read the terms to ensure the client has told you everything about the job. Is the location correct? Is there a 100' seal requirement? If you have any doubts about the project, a quick call to Division of Water Resources in Carson City (775) 684-2800 or Las Vegas (702) 486-2770, will be able to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. We can also fax a copy of the documents you need to complete the work in a professional and accurate manner per the permit and/or waiver terms. Remember that you, not your clients, are the professional.

#### Answers:

1. A river
2. Night and day